Book Reviews.

UNTERSUCHUNGEN ÜBER DEN LEPRABACILLUS UND ÜBER DIE HISTOLOGIE DER LEPRA. Victor Babes, Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Bacteriology at the University of Bucarest. S. Karger, Berlin, 1898, pp. 112.

The previous work of the author on the subject of leprosy makes this later monograph particularly welcome. Babes has here collected and arranged in systematic form his own work and that of others in the same field, and in such a way that a maximum ease of reference has been attained so far as that is possible without an index. After a discussion of the histology of leprosy, before the discovery of the causative agent, he takes up in detail the now recognized bacillus of the disease, its method of entrance into the tissues and its position in them. Then follows a consideration of leprosy as it appears in the skin and upper air passages, in the nervous system, genital organs, lymph and blood making organs, lungs, digestive tract and other tissues of less importance. The final chapter contains an excellent summary of conclusions, which is followed by a bibliography.

Of special interest to the neurologist is the discussion of changes in the nervous system, due to the presence of the bacillus of leprosy. Pathological alterations are frequent and easy of detection in the peripheral nerves, and are essentially what one would expect from the general character of the leprous process. The bacilli are to be seen in and about the nerve trunks affected. Babes has been able to verify the researches of Sudakewitsch as to the presence of bacilli within the cells of the spinal ganglia, and also, though much less frequently, in the ganglia of the sympathetic system. As to the changes brought about in the cells by the presence within them of bacilli, Babes is not inclined to be dogmatic, though in general he found that those cells in which most marked alterations were observed contained bacilli. It is easy to conceive that, apart from the mere mechanical effect, the presence of organisms within the cell might produce no marked chromatolysis.

Observations on the spinal cord have been somewhat less satisfactory, and the cases examined more open to doubt in their interpretation. Contrary to previous researches by Chasiotis, Babes finds few bacilli in the cord, and when found they lie within nerve cells. In certain cases both the chromatic substance and the nucleus show evidence of degenerative changes. Researches on the brain have been, for the most part, negative.

Babes is entirely sceptical, and rightly we think, as to the relationship between leprosy and syringomyelia. His own words in the matter are: "We must in this important question make the absolute demand that preparations be shown us in which we may convince ourselves that bacilli are actually in the spinal cord, and then that they stand in causal relation to the cavity formation."

In general, the monograph is an important addition to our knowledge of a subject of the highest scientific interest, and may well find a place in the library of the neurologist, as well as of the syphilographer. It is well printed, and profusely illustrated with colored plates, admirably reproduced from the originals. The proof-reading leaves something to be wished for, and the absence of an index is a real defect.

E. W. TAYLOR.

ACCIDENT AND INJURY; THEIR RELATIONS TO DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. By Pearce Bailey, A.M., M.D. D. Appleton & Co., New York, pp. 12, 430, 1898.

There should be two *raisons d'être* for every medical book. First, the author should be so full of his subject by reason of large experience, careful review of the literature and mature deliberations as to make his writings the natural expression of accumulated wisdom; and second, there should be an expressed want or a real need on the part of the medical public for such a book. In the present instance it may will be doubted if the first *vis a tergo* was present in all its completeness; there can be no manner of doubt as to the second. A good monograph regarding the "traumatic neuroses" was sadly needed, and this need Dr. Bailey has supplied, notwithstanding the insinuation just made that the work bears some marks of immaturity. It is, indeed, something more than a treatise on that group of functional nervous disorders called by Oppenheim traumatic neuroses.

After an introduction devoted to general considerations regarding the principles and technique involved in a consideration of traumatic nervous cases the work is divided into four parts, as follows: (1) Organic Effects of Injury to the Nervous System (140 pages); (2) Functional Effects of Injury (155 pages); (3) Malingering (52 pages); (4) Treatment of the Traumatic Neuroses (24 pages).

It will be seen by this division of the subject that organic affections receive considerable attention, and this is as it should be, for in very many injury cases the first and sometimes the most difficult question to be resolved is, whether the patient is suffering from organic or functional disease, or both. To make this accurate and complete diagnosis a knowledge of both classes of affections is clearly indispensable.

In the introduction will be found detailed instructions as to what and how to examine in a case of injury when the nervous system is involved.

The author divides the examination into four stages, viz.: (1) Previous history of the patient (ancestral; personal); (2) history of the accident; (3) physical evidences of predisposition to nervous disease; (4) examination for the actual injury.

To this, in our opinion, should be added a separate head embracing the history from the accident to the time of the examination, as this part of the anamnesis is not infrequently the most important and oftens reveals the essential nature and pathogenesis of the disease. To the list of affections indicating a pathogenic heredity migraine should by all means be added.

The list of stigmata of degeneration (degeneracy?) and the directions as to examination of the gait, cranial nerves, reflexes, electric reactions, etc., should be of great service to those not accustomed to make a complete investigation of nervous cases.

A rather brief consideration of injuries to the brain, including a sketch of the more important localizations, opens Part I. Injuries to the spinal cord are treated somewhat more at length and with a clear-